# **Refine Search**

# Search Results -

Terms	Documents			
6209779.pn. or 5982994.pn.	2			

US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
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JPO Abstracts Database
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L16

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# **Search History**

# DATE: Wednesday, September 07, 2005 Printable Copy Create Case

Set Name side by side	Query	<u>Hit</u> <u>Count</u>	Set Name result set
DB = 1	PGPB, USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR		
<u>L16</u>	6209779.pn. or 5982994.pn.	2	<u>L16</u>
<u>L15</u>	L14 and L9	4	<u>L15</u>
<u>L14</u>	L10 or L11 or L12	10	<u>L14</u>
<u>L13</u>	L10 or L11 or L12	10	<u>L13</u>
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<u>L12</u>	(3640426   4396334   5556254   4966521   3690476)![PN]	12	<u>L12</u>
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<u>L10</u>	('20030004824'  '6022186'  '20040085580'  '6113344')[URPN]	1	<u>L10</u>
<u>L9</u>	("single print run" or "single-print-run") and (presort\$ or sort\$ or "pre-sort") near2 (pattern\$ or order\$ or sequenc\$)	4	<u>L9</u>
<u>L8</u>	("single print run" or "single-print-run") and (presort\$ or sort\$ or "pre-sort") near2 (pattern\$ or order\$ or sequenc\$) and mail\$	2	<u>L8</u>

DB=	PGPB, USPT; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES; OP=OR		
<u>L7</u>	L6 and L2	2	<u>L7</u>
DB=	PGPB, USPT, USOC, EPAB, JPAB, DWPI, TDBD; THES=ASSIGNEE; PLUR=YES	5;	
OP=OI	R		
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<u>L5</u>	('20030004824'  '20040085580')[URPN]	0	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	('20030004824'  '20040085580')[URPN]	0	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	L2 or L1	2	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u> ·	("single print run" or "single-print-run") and (presort\$ or sort\$ or "pre-sort") near2 (pattern\$ or order\$ or sequenc\$) and mail\$.ab.	2	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	("single print run" or "single-print-run") and (presort\$ with sequenc\$) and mail\$.ab.	. 2	<u>L1</u>

# END OF SEARCH HISTORY

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Print

L8: Entry 1 of 2

File: PGPB

May 6, 2004

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20040085580

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20040085580 A1

TITLE: Method for printing multiple jobs

PUBLICATION-DATE: May 6, 2004

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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Kent, Bradley D. Palm Harbor FL US
Cohn, Warren G. Oldsmar FL US

APPL-NO: 10/ 375445 [PALM]
DATE FILED: February 27, 2003

#### RELATED-US-APPL-DATA:

Application is a non-provisional-of-provisional application 60/424096, filed November 6, 2002,

INT-CL: [07]  $\underline{G06}$   $\underline{F}$   $\underline{15}/00$ ,  $\underline{G06}$   $\underline{K}$  1/00

US-CL-PUBLISHED: 358/001.18; 358/001.15

US-CL-CURRENT: 358/1.18; 358/1.15

REPRESENTATIVE-FIGURES: 1

# ABSTRACT:

A system and method for merging and printing multiple postal presorted print jobs into a <u>single print run</u> for discounted rate <u>mailing</u>. The method includes merging <u>mail</u> recipient address lists from several print job orders into a merged recipient address list. The method further includes associating printing content provided by a print job order requestor with each recipient in the merged <u>mail</u> recipient address list. The method also includes printing <u>mailpieces in a presorted sequence</u> by selectively applying associated printing content for each <u>mail</u> recipient in a presorted merged <u>mail</u> recipient address list. Accordingly, several small targeted <u>mailing</u> print jobs, each individually too small to qualify for <u>mailing</u> discounts, can be merged into a larger, presorted print run collectively eligible for <u>mailing</u> discounts.

# CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims priority to a provisional application filed on Nov. 6, 2002 having application No. 60/424,096, the specification of which is

# **Hit List**

Your wildcard search against 10000 terms has yielded the results below:

# Your result set for the last L# is incomplete.

The probable cause is use of unlimited truncation. Revise your search strategy to use limited truncation.

Generate Collection Print Ewd Refs Bkwd Refs

Generate OAGS

**Search Results -** Record(s) 1 through 2 of 2 returned.

☐ 1. Document ID: US 20040085580 A1

Using default format because multiple data bases are involved.

L8: Entry 1 of 2

File: PGPB

May 6, 2004

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20040085580

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TITLE: Method for printing multiple jobs

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 358/1.18; 358/1.15

Full Title Citation Front Review Classification Date Reference Sequences Attachments Claims 1990 Fram De

☐ 2. Document ID: US 20030004824 A1

L8: Entry 2 of 2 File: PGPB Jan 2, 2003

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20030004824

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

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TITLE: Method and system for customized mail piece production utilizing a data

center

PUBLICATION-DATE: January 2, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME CITY STATE COUNTRY RULE-47

Joshi, Uday W. Mould, Richard

Wilton

Greenwich

CT CT US US

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26

Full	Title Citation	Front	Review	Classification	[·ate	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	13040	Fram De
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**End of Result Set** 

# Generate Collection Print

L8: Entry 2 of 2

File: PGPB

Jan 2, 2003

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20030004824

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TITLE: Method and system for customized mail piece production utilizing a data

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PUBLICATION-DATE: January 2, 2003

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APPL-NO: 09/ 898232 [PALM]
DATE FILED: July 2, 2001

INT-CL:  $[07] \underline{G06} \underline{F} \underline{17/60}$ 

US-CL-PUBLISHED: 705/26 US-CL-CURRENT: 705/26

REPRESENTATIVE-FIGURES: 1

### ABSTRACT:

A system and method for preparing <u>mail</u> pieces is disclosed. A business provides one or more designs for a <u>mail</u> piece to a data center, which converts the designs to a format suitable for viewing via an on-line network connection utilizing a browser. A custom Web site for the business is created and accessed by the business's employees. A defined design for a <u>mail</u> piece is selected, information to be included on the <u>mail</u> piece is provided, and a <u>mailing</u> list is provided to the data center. Multiple requests for <u>mailings</u> are combined by the data center into a <u>single print run</u> and arranged in a <u>presort sequence</u> to allow for postal discounts. The aggregated <u>mailing</u> is printed, and the entire <u>mailing is mailed</u> by the data center.

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File: PGPB

May 6, 2004

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20040085580 A1 TITLE: Method for printing multiple jobs

# Abstract Paragraph:

L8: Entry 1 of 2

A system and method for merging and printing multiple postal presorted print jobs into a <u>single print run</u> for discounted rate <u>mailing</u>. The method includes merging <u>mail</u> recipient address lists from several print job orders into a merged recipient address list. The method further includes associating printing content provided by a print job order requestor with each recipient in the merged <u>mail</u> recipient address list. The method also includes printing <u>mailpieces in a presorted sequence</u> by selectively applying associated printing content for each <u>mail</u> recipient in a presorted merged <u>mail</u> recipient address list. Accordingly, several small targeted <u>mailing</u> print jobs, each individually too small to qualify for <u>mailing</u> discounts, can be merged into a larger, presorted print run collectively eligible for <u>mailing</u> discounts.

# Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0006] While marketing may be accomplished by mass <u>mailing</u> of advertising literature, sophisticated data information collection schemes have made it more cost effective to target <u>mailings</u> to consumers who are most likely to respond to the advertisement. However, smaller merchants may have a limited advertising budget and a relatively small geographic marketing area as compared to larger, nationwide merchants. As a result, many smaller merchants cannot afford to use targeted <u>mailings</u> because of the high set up costs involved in printing a small job.

# Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0007] In addition to printing costs, mailing costs can also be prohibitively expensive for smaller merchants using targeted mailing. Notably, bulk mail quantities less than 200 mailpieces do not currently qualify for mailing discounts. One way to reduce postal costs is to provide the post office with  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  pieces presorted by 3 digit sectional center facility (SCF) (the first three digits that indicate a postal facility that serves and the processing and distribution center for post offices in a designated geographic area), zip code, or by carrier route. Postal presorting refers to the process by which a mailer groups mailpieces by ZIP Code so that the mailpieces are sorted to the finest extent possible required by standards for which a specific mailing rate is claimed. Generally, presort is performed sequentially, from the lowest (finest) level to the highest level, to those destinations specified by the applicable standard and is completed at each level before the next level is prepared. Postal presorting with respect to postal recipient addresses involves physically separating <u>mailpieces</u> based on minimum qualifying quantities for a given classification of mail, such as carrier route (the addresses to which a  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  carrier delivers  $\underline{\text{mail}}$ ), 3 digit (SCF) 5 digit ZIP code, a destination designation scheme, an automated area distribution center designation (AADC), or a mixed AADC groups. The more specific presorting of mail a sender can perform, the larger the discount. For example, a bulk mailing sorted by ZIP code receives a larger discount than a mailing presorted by SCF. Most importantly, there are minimum quantities required for a single job to qualify for discounted rates. For discounted standard mail, the mailing must contain a minimum of 200 mailpieces with at least 150 to a single 3 digit SCF postal region. For discounted first class mail, the mailing must contain at least 500 mailpieces with

at least one full tray of 3 digit sorted <u>mailpieces</u>. Consequently, smaller merchants rarely can take advantage of the postage discounts afforded larger merchants because the quantity of the smaller merchants' custom <u>mailpieces</u> is often below the minimum thresholds set by the Post Office.

# Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0008] During printing of mailpieces, databases, postal hygiene software, and postal presorting software can be used to automatically presort in a computer and then print the mailpieces in sortation sequence ready to be bundled with the same presort group, such as SCF, Zip code, or carrier route. However, this method works best for volume runs. Small print jobs that would not normally qualify for discounts typically require mailing at a full first class rate and manual application of stamps. Alternatively, a batch of small jobs can be printed separately and combined, then presorted into appropriate ZIP code bins. Mail presorting facilities and mail presorting equipment can be used to presort mail, but these solutions can be prohibitively expensive, requiring costly mechanical automated equipment or extensive manual labor.

# Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0009] To qualify for bulk mailing discounts, mailpieces must be Coding Accuracy Support System (CASS) certified before mailing. CASS is a system designed to check the integrity of addresses within the United States. When an address passes through the CASS, it is verified against a database containing a comprehensive list of mailing address in the United States. This address database is issued by the USPS and is updated bimonthly. If an address passes this verification, four digits areappended to the end of the five digit ZIP code and three extra digits (a delivery point code) are added to a separate field created in the database. Additional information is also added to several other fields within the database for use by other software that sorts the addresses according to United States Postal Service (USPS) regulations for postal discounts. Both CASS certification and presort processing are required to take advantage of discounts offered by the USPS, and these savings can be significant. For instance, a letter that normally would cost \$ 0.37 to mail, could cost as little as \$0.174 by taking advantage of CASS and presorted bulk mail discounts. Furthermore, by bar-coding mailpieces, manual handling of mail and the associated costs are reduced. Normally, when a piece of mail enters the Post Office, it may be manually processed many times before being processed further by automated machinery for mailing. The same piece of mail, when bar-coded and presorted according to Post Office guidelines, can avoid most of the manual processes and several of the automated processes as well.

# Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0010] Accordingly, there is a need to provide a method for more economical printing of small print jobs by reducing the set up time for the job. In particular, there is a need to be able to process multiple print jobs in a single print run and allow the content of each page printed in the run to differ by as much as 100%. Further, there is a need to provide an efficient method of combined presorting of multiple different mail jobs during the computer preparation of these jobs such that they could be printed sequentially in presort sequence so that the different mail runs become a physical single job with appropriate mailing discounts and volume economies as the job exits the printing machine.

# Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0011] Generally, the present invention fulfills the foregoing needs by providing, in one aspect thereof, a method for merging and printing multiple postal presorted print jobs into a single print run for discounted rate mailing. The method further includes merging mail recipient address lists from a plurality of print job orders into a merged recipient address list. The method also includes associating printing content with each recipient in the merged mail recipient address list. The method further includes printing mailpieces in a presorted sequence by selectively applying associated printing content for each mail recipient in a presorted merged

mail recipient address list.

# Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0012] In addition, the present invention provides, in another aspect thereof, a printing method for merging print jobs. The method includes receiving and maintaining a list of mailing recipients comprising addresses. The method also includes receiving a plurality of print job orders from senders, each order comprising unique print content and desired recipients. In addition, the method includes tagging recipients in the list of mailing recipients with a unique code corresponding to the desired recipients indicated in each of the print job orders to uniquely associate each sender with the desired recipients. The method further includes merging each of the print job orders into a merged print job and presorting the merged print job into a postal presorted print run according to the addresses of the combined mailing recipients. In addition, the method includes associating the print content received from each sender with each recipient tagged with the corresponding sender's unique code. The method further includes inserting the appropriate content in the postal presorted print run so that the print jobs orders are printed in a postal presorted sequence corresponding to the addresses of the mailing recipients.

#### Summary of Invention Paragraph:

[0013] The present invention further provides, in another aspect thereof, a computer system for merging and printing multiple postal presorted print jobs into a <u>single print run</u> for discounted rate <u>mailing</u>. The system further comprises a processor, for executing stored instructions and a storage device, coupled to the processor, for executing stored instructions to merge and print postal presorted print jobs.

#### Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph:

[0016] FIG. 2 illustrates a flow chart describing the printing method for reducing print set up time for small print jobs and eliminating the need for physical post-print presorting of small run mailpieces.

## Detail Description Paragraph:

[0019] FIG. 1 illustrates a flow chart describing a business process employing the printing method of the invention. Generally, the business process includes receiving order lists from customers 10, processing billing information 12, setting up the print run 14, and printing and mailing the order 16. The process advantageously allows multiple small print runs to be merged and sorted so that that no post-printing sorting is required to qualify for postal discounts. By associating common recipient addresses among a multitude of print job orders and merging the print jobs orders into a single print run so that the print jobs orders are printed in a sequence corresponding to the common address, printing and sorting can be accomplished in one step.

# Detail Description Paragraph:

[0020] Order lists provided by or acquired for <u>mail</u> sender customers, can include, for example, the following fields: name, address, city, state, zip, and a predetermined sender keycode. In an aspect of the invention, each order list is associated with a unique sender. A sender keycode contains a value that is unique to the sender and identifies the intended recipient records (for example, stored in a database and provided by the sender) as being the recipients who will receive a <u>mailpiece</u> from the sender corresponding to the keycode. Advantageously, most of the processes can be automated, primarily using software and computer technology, as indicated with reference to legend 18. At the heart of the invention is the process of setting up the print job 14 to incorporate a variety of individual job requests received from senders, which is more fully described with respect to FIGS. 2 and 3.

#### Detail Description Paragraph:

[0021] FIG. 2 illustrates a flow chart describing setting up a print run comprising print jobs based on order lists. Generally, the method includes receiving recipient mailing lists and sender print job orders and assembling a print run by merging many small print jobs to achieve (common postal destination) groups of printed mailpieces large enough to qualify for postal discounts. The recipient data typically may have a sender keycode field with the same data throughout. Alternatively, if the recipient data does not include a keycode data, a unique sender keycode can be applied.

#### Detail Description Paragraph:

[0022] Multiple mailings from different senders can then be grouped together according to destination addresses of the mailpieces in a postal presorted print run to allow application of bulk discounts. For example, if there are 150 mailpieces to be mailed to ZIP code 34685, the system will automatically group the 150 mailpieces together in a postal presort group to allow application of presorting to a 5 digit ZIP code. In another example, if there are 45 mailpieces to be mailed to ZIP code 34685, 35 mailpieces to be mailed to ZIP code 34684, and 100 mailpieces to be mailed to ZIP code 34683, then the system would group the total of 180 mailpieces in a postal presort group for SCF 346 because none of the constituent groups has more than 150 mailpieces going to same ZIP code, and only an SCF discount would apply for the 180 piece postal presort group.

### Detail Description Paragraph:

[0023] The postal presorted <u>mailpieces</u> are then printed with the appropriate printed content applied from each of the senders according to the keycode. Thus,—the order of printed content applied to a <u>mailpiece</u> is not determined by the content as in conventional high volume <u>mailpiece</u> printing techniques, where the same basic template or form content is printed for consecutive presorted recipients. Rather, in an aspect of the invention, the printed content is applied according to the sender keycode associated with the consecutive presorted recipients, so that the printed content may change entirely for each <u>mailpiece</u> in a print run, thereby enabling multiple job printing and sorting to be performed simultaneously.

#### Detail Description Paragraph:

[0024] As shown in FIG. 2, the general process of printing and sorting includes receiving a list of mailing recipients 25, having a mailing address associated with the recipient. For example, the list may be a target list for direct mail advertising provided by a printing client. The list may be maintained in a database for future reference, or the sender may send a new mailing list with each print job order. In another embodiment, lists can be purchased or leased based on individual, building (such as home or commercial building), or geographic parameters. In an aspect of the invention, a multitude of mailing lists are maintained. Next, print job orders, such as advertising flyers to be mailed to recipients, are received 26 from senders. The print job order includes, for example, print content, desired recipients of the print content, and the desired delivery date. If a list of mailing recipients is purchased or leased, then the order of steps 25 and 26 are reversed—a print job order is received and then applied to a desired list of purchased or leased mailing recipients.

# Detail Description Paragraph:

[0025] The desired recipients of the printed <u>mailpieces</u> are tagged 27 with a keycode as being recipients of the corresponding sender specific <u>mailpieces</u>. After several print jobs have been received (generally, small print jobs that are too small to qualify for discounted <u>mailing</u> rates and would ordinarily need to be <u>mailed</u> at a full, undiscounted rate) and the appropriate recipients tagged with keycodes, the individual print jobs are merged into a print run 28. Merging the print runs allows creation of a large list that advantageously includes sufficient quantities of <u>mailpieces</u> for various postal destinations, such as SCF or ZIP code, to qualify for bulk <u>mailing</u>.

#### Detail Description Paragraph:

[0026] The print run is then presorted according to the tagged recipients' addresses 29, so that the run is in postal presort order. After sorting, the print content provided by the senders is associated to each of the recipients according to the keycodes 30, and the print run can then be printed 31. Accordingly, the recipients within the plurality of combined small print job orders are printed in a postal presort sequence, advantageously qualifying for significant postal discounts and mail shop economies of finishing volume jobs. For example, finishing may include trimming, cutting, folding, gluing, inserting or other paper finishing operations.

## Detail Description Paragraph:

[0027] FIG. 3 illustrates a detailed flowchart further describing the printing method for reducing print set up time for small print jobs. The process allows merging of individual print jobs from a variety of printing clients, or senders, into a single print job having a single set up time associated with the merged job. Accordingly, the process provides more economical printing of small print jobs by effectively reducing the set up time for each individual job. Furthermore, the process merges multiple print jobs in a single print run by innovatively allowing the content of each page printed in the run to differ by as much as 100%. In an aspect of the invention, the process also automatically computes impositions so that mailpieces are printed in a presorted order.

## Detail Description Paragraph:

[0028] Generally, the detailed process includes accessing <u>mailpiece</u> order lists, merging the lists, presorting the merged lists, applying print sequences to the <u>mailpieces</u> based on imposition (arrangement/ordering of pages for printing multiple final pieces on one large sheet of paper to reduce paper/printing costs so that when the printed stack is cut, the stacks of finished <u>mailpieces</u> are in postal <u>presort order</u>) if required, applying a keycode to each recipient, replacing placeholder data, personalization, and creating a <u>mailpiece</u> print file comprising a variety of individually customized print jobs.

# Detail Description Paragraph:

[0029] More specifically, as shown in FIG. 3, sender requests are accessed from order lists 32 stored in a database. In an aspect of the invention, a requested mailpiece intended for a respective recipient may be processed as a template having customizable printing fields, such as test of graphic objects, so that custom print content can be printed for each respective print run. Each recipient in the list is assigned a keycode 33 corresponding to the sender that requested the respective recipient. The individual print jobs are then merged into a master list 34 and the master list created in step 34 is CASS certified 36. The master list is then presorted according to the desired recipients of the mailing 38, and a presort ID is automatically attached to each recipient, for example, by presorting software. Typically, the presort ID starts at a value of zero and is incremented until the master list is completely presorted. The largest presort identifier value in the presorted list is N-1, where N is the number of CASS certified records in the master list. The presort identifier is used to sort and print Next, a print sequence is applied to the master list corresponding the presort identifier and based on an imposition layout, if applicable 40.

# Detail Description Paragraph:

[0030] An iterative loop is then performed for each recipient in the master list 42 of the print sequence created in step 40 and the <u>presort order</u> created in step 38. For each recipient, the keycode for the recipient is retrieved 44, a copy of a sender <u>mailpiece</u> template (including, for example, text and graphic placeholders) corresponding to the keycode is opened 46. An iterative loop examining each text object and graphic object placeholder in the <u>mailpiece</u> template is performed 48. If an object is, or contains, a variable data placeholder 50, then the variable data

or graphics placeholder is replaced with the corresponding data provided by the sender, for example, in an object incorporated into the sender's order list 52, This process continues until the end of the object list for the current <u>mailpiece</u> is reached 54. If an object is not a variable data placeholder in step 50, the process returns to step 48 and the next object is examined.

# Detail Description Paragraph:

[0031] After the end of the object list for the current <u>mailpiece</u> is reached in step 54, the customized and personalized <u>mailpiece</u> is added to the end of the <u>mailstream</u> output 56, and the iterative process of step 42 repeated until the end of the recipient list 58 is reached. After the end of the recipient list is reached in step 60, the type of desired output is determined 60. If softcopy file output is desired, offline imposition is performed if applicable. Then, the softcopy file is saved to appropriate storage media (such as a firewire or USB portable computer hard drive) and the softcopy file can be delivered to a printing facility, for example, and printed 66. If direct printing is desired, the file is printed 61 and <u>mail</u> finishing operations are performed 68. In addition, files printed using the softcopy file output cache method are further processed by the <u>mail</u> finishing operations of step 68. After the <u>mail</u> finishing operations are performed, the presorted, finished <u>mailpieces</u> can be arranged into <u>mail</u> trays 72 and delivered to the post office 72 where the process ends 74.

#### Detail Description Paragraph:

[0032] Accordingly, several jobs for a printing run can be set up simultaneously, so that only one set up procedure is required for a run of several jobs. The process automatically merges the jobs, assembles the required ad copy, presorts the mailpieces, and calculates imposition to provide a print run that is presorted and ready to mail. For example, an individual recipient in a mail list merged according to the invention may be receiving mailpieces from three different senders. Using conventional printing techniques, three separate print runs with printing template changes between runs, and manual presorting after the run, would be required to take advantage of presorted mail discounts. Advantageously, by merging and presorting lists from several vendors, and the mailpieces from the three senders to the individual recipient may be printed sequentially by changing printing templates "on the fly" for each of the three mailpieces, thereby preserving the presort order and eliminated the need to have three separate print runs and post printing presorting. Accordingly, the mailpieces are sorted prior to the printing process so that no manual sorting is required before delivering the print job to the post office. As a result, discounted bulk mail rates can be used. By merging print jobs, smaller jobs having less than 200 presorted mailpieces, for example, (under current USPS rules, an amount too small to qualify for bulk mailing rates), can still take advantage of bulk mailing rates by being incorporated into a job having more that 200 total pieces.

## Detail Description Paragraph:

[0033] In addition, the invention provides imposition so that print sequencing can be maintained. As an example, when a <u>mailpiece</u> is being printed as a single of 1-up positions, the print sequence order is the same as the <u>mailing presort order</u>. However, to maximize printing economies, <u>mailpieces</u>, especially small items such as postcards, are sometimes printed in impositioned format. For example, a postcard may be printed 4-up on letter-sized paper. Using the disclosed process, the print order is configured so that when printing is complete and the stack of printed sheets are cut into the 4 stacks of cards, each stack is already in <u>mailing presort order</u> and the total number of items on the <u>mailing</u> list is included.

#### CLAIMS:

1. A method for merging and printing multiple postal presorted print jobs into a single print run for discounted rate mailing comprising: merging mail recipient address lists from a plurality of print job orders into a merged recipient address

- list; associating printing content with each recipient in the merged  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  recipient address list; and printing  $\underline{\text{mailpieces in a presorted sequence}}$  by selectively applying associated printing content for each  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  recipient in a presorted merged  $\underline{\text{mail recipient}}$  address list.
- 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining an address list of  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  recipients.
- 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising maintaining a list of  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  senders requesting print job orders.
- 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising assigning a unique code to a  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  sender requesting a print job.
- 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising associating the unique code with recipients in a  $\underline{\text{mail}}$  recipient address list according to desired recipients indicated in a print job order received from a mail sender.
- 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising receiving print content from a <u>mail</u> sender and associating the print content with the mail sender's unique code.
- 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising inserting the print content into a mailpiece according to the corresponding unique code associated with desired recipients.
- 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising processing each  $\underline{\text{mailpiece}}$  as a template comprising fields for inserting customized data or graphics when printing the  $\underline{\text{mailpiece}}$ .
- 9. A printing method for merging print jobs comprising: receiving and maintaining a list of mailing recipients comprising addresses; receiving a plurality of print job orders from senders, each order comprising print content and desired recipients; tagging recipients in the list of mailing recipients with a unique code corresponding to the desired recipients indicated in each of the print job orders to uniquely associate each sender with the desired recipients; merging each of the print job orders into a merged print job; presorting the merged print job into a postal presorted print run according to the addresses of the mailing recipients; associating the print content received from each sender with each recipient tagged with the corresponding sender's unique code; and inserting the appropriate print content in the postal presorted print run so that the print jobs orders are printed in a postal presorted sequence.
- 10. A computer system for merging and printing multiple postal presorted print jobs into a <u>single print run</u> for discounted rate <u>mailing</u> comprising: a processor, for executing stored instructions; and a storage device, coupled to the processor, for executing stored instructions comprising: a. receiving and maintaining a list of <u>mailing</u> recipients comprising addresses; b. receiving a plurality of print job orders from senders, each order comprising print content and desired recipients; c. tagging recipients in the list of <u>mailing</u> recipients with a unique code corresponding to the desired recipients indicated in each of the print job orders to uniquely associate each sender with the desired recipients; d. merging each of the print job orders into a merged print job; e. presorting the merged print jobs into a postal presorted print run according to the addresses of the <u>mailing</u> recipients; f. associating the print content received from each sender with each recipient tagged with the corresponding sender's unique code; and g. inserting the appropriate content in the postal presorted print run so that the print jobs orders are printed in a postal <u>presorted sequence</u>.
- 11. The system of claim 10, comprising an address database, coupled to the processor, for storing a  $\underline{\text{mailing}}$  recipient address list and corresponding address

list codes for identifying each mailing recipient as a designated recipient.

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